

This petitioner takes it upon himself to claim certain statements as true, even though many others believe otherwise.

I too Hold an Amateur Extra License (N7DC) since 1977, and WA5UKR prior to that.

I am a member of the ARRL.

I operate SSB, PSK, RTTY, FM, SSTV, and CW with over 35 years of amateur service, and over 40 years of professional telecommunications operations for the federal government.

The ITU removed the requirement for CW operations for operation on frequencies below 30 Mhz, but did address the fact that individual governments COULD continue to require CW tests for their amateurs. What should have been said, was not even addressed: and that is that if one wishes to operate CW he should be required to prove his capabilities in that mode, considering that it is the only mode that truly requires a skill, and not just written knowledge.

The Morse code requirement should no longer limit anyone from earning a license, just limit their use of CW if that test is not completed and passed.

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Testers in the USA have long had the capability to test handicapped individuals in CW, and that did not preclude anyone who really wished to do so, from passing a test. But, we are no longer talking about those persons "having" to pass the CW test, unless they WANT to work CW.

The petitioner then makes what I feel is the weakest statement of all: "Continued Morse Code requirements serve no useful purpose in the Twenty-first Century" Quite apparently he thinks so, but I don't. I know CW does continue to be a valid mode, and is used by thousands of operators daily, and each of those is available, with even modest equipment, in case of dire circumstances. It gives us the ability to "get the message through" when Voice won't do the trick, and no computers are available out "in the field"

I beg the Commission to disregard this attack on the future capabilities of amateur radio.